

Serial No.: 08/864,762

points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points, includes condition monitor means for changing the accumulated points according to predetermined conditions; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the condition monitor means adds interest to the customer's points according to the accumulated points and periods of time, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

25. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points, includes condition monitor means for changing the accumulated points according to predetermined conditions; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the condition monitor means decreases the customer's points if the customer does not carry out a transaction during a predetermined period, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

Serial No.: 08/864,762

26. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point accumulation means includes means for converting the customer's points managed by a group of stores into points managed by another group of stores according to a predetermined rate if the customer requests the conversion, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

28. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point accumulation means decreases the customer's accumulated points according to a period of time of providing the software service, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

Serial No.: 08/864,762

~~30. (CANCELED)~~~~32-35. (CANCELED)~~~~37. (CANCELED)~~

50. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points;

point notification means for instantaneously notifying the customer of cumulative point information comprising the issued points; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point notification means comprises service contents storage means for storing a list of types of services and corresponding points, and according to a request from the customer displays on a terminal the list of the types of services and corresponding points to the customer, wherein a number of the customer's cumulative points may be redeemed for a number of the types of services, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

52. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

Serial No.: 08/864,762

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points;
point notification means for instantaneously notifying the customer of cumulative point information comprising the issued points; and
customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point notification means further comprises service contents storage means for selecting a range of services available in exchange for the accumulated points of the customer, and instantaneously notifies the customer of the selected services through a terminal, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

65. (TWICE AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issued to each customer who receives service according to the issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulation means for calculating and accumulating the issued points for more than two transactions;

point notification means for instantaneously notifying the customer of the cumulative point information comprising the issued points; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to customer identification information,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point issue means comprises rate management means for changing a point calculation rate according to each of the more than two transactions, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

Serial No.: 08/864,762

66. (TWICE AMENDED) A point management system employing a computer for managing points issues to each customer who receives service according to issued points, comprising:

point issue means for issuing the points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer;

point accumulating means for calculating and accumulating the issued points for more than two transactions;

point storing means for storing point information comprising the issued points for each customer identification;

point notification means for instantaneously notifying the customer of the cumulative point information; and

customer identification means for identifying the customer according to the customer identification,

wherein the point management system provides a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the accumulated points, wherein the point accumulation means adds interest points to the customer's accumulated points according to the customer's accumulated points and a period of time of providing the software service, wherein the point notification means notifies the customer of the point information before the customer carries out transactions and wherein the point issue means comprises rate management means for changing a point calculation rate according to each of the more than two transactions, and wherein the customer accesses the accumulated points stored on the computer through a terminal.

67. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for implementing a point management system in a store, comprising:

receiving a customer ID as entered by a customer;

determining whether the customer entering the customer ID is registered, and if not, registering the customer if the customer;

issuing points to the customer according to transactions performed by the customer; calculating and accumulating the issued points for more than two transactions;

providing a point service to the customer if a request therefor is received from the customer;

providing a service including a software service in exchange for an amount of the